

6 May 1982
MMb-2005

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Swaziland Bureau--April 1982

I. GENERAL

Robert H. Finney, a businessman/investor and a political appointee, has been selected as the new U.S. Ambassador to Swaziland. The Swazi Government has agreed to the appointment, but it must still receive U.S. Congressional approval. Finney is not expected to arrive in Swaziland until at least late June. Ambassador Matheron is planning to depart some time around 26 May, though the exact date will depend on when he can pick up a passenger-carrying freighter for the 3-week trip from Durban to New Orleans. As yet, he has not received a new assignment from the State Department.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial

The bureau's staff began to take shape during the month with the entrance on duty of the first two monitors, one with French capability and the other with Afrikaans. A third monitor, also with Afrikaans capability, is expected to report for work on 10 May. The first two recruits have started out sampling stations in the area, and have begun doing program summaries and practice items in different formats. So far their progress has been quite good.

B. Technical

The bureau's top technician applicant had to back out of accepting a job offer when he could not get a release from his present job with [redacted] from whom he had taken out loans and to whom he was committed by other financial obligations. The second best applicant, who had scored almost as well on the initial

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screening test, has accepted a job offer and steps necessary to bring him on board are in progress. He also works for the [redacted] but is under less binding obligations and is only required to give a month's notice. He should EOD by mid-June.

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III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. [redacted] a Swazi citizen, entered on duty on 13 April as the bureau's first non-staff employee.

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[redacted]
[redacted] was hired as a French/English media analyst.

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2. [redacted] entered on duty 27 April as an Afrikaans/English media analyst. [redacted] was born in South Africa but was naturalized as a Swazi citizen [redacted]

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B. Building and Grounds

1. Renovation work on the bureau was about 50 percent complete by the end of the month. Progress has been somewhat slower than anticipated by the contractor, but the workmanship has been quite good. The original estimate of 4-6 weeks for the renovations will most likely stretch to something like 8 weeks, putting completion back to the end of May or beginning of June, rather than mid-May as originally estimated.

2. Three 10-meter antenna masts, built by a local firm, were installed in concrete foundations during the month, to be used for three dipole antennas. The same firm also put up three flag pole type masts to be used for longwire antennas. Given the terrain and large number of trees on the bureau property, the masts are very unobtrusive and largely unnoticeable from the road in front of the bureau. The antennas will be hooked up in a permanent configuration once renovation work on the bureau is completed.

IV. VISITS

Hqs Logs Officer [redacted] departed 18 April after 7 weeks of TDY assisting in the installation of bureau equipment and setting up the bureau's property records.

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Chief, Swaziland Bureau, FBIS

cc; Chief, Abidjan Bureau